

THE CRANES' ISLAND HOME.

A Great Nesting Place for Them on an Island off the Georgia Coast.

Visitors to Daufuskie Island during the summer tell of the roosting and brooding places of the cranes on the island. Storks, cranes and bitterns spend the day along the estuaries of the sea coast and wade and fly over the miles and miles of salt marshes. Along about 4 o'clock in the afternoon they begin to collect in the matted shrubbery and undergrowth of Daufuskie Island for the night. They fly singly, by pairs, and in flocks ranging from twenty-five to fifty.

A gentleman who was marooned on the island a few days ago said that he was ignorant of the habits of the sea fowl, and one evening, near twilight, he was returning to his quarters, and when passing near a dense thicket he heard a great chattering, and many of the voices sounded like that of humans. Resting on his gun he came to the conclusion that it was a colony of cranes. He threw a stick into the thicket, with a wild shriek and scream, some 400 or 500 cranes flew out, circled about a while, and having recovered from their fright, settled down again from sight, still keeping up their chatter and clatter.

C. W. J. Thompson says the cranes find in the dense undergrowth of some parts of the island a secure and almost unapproachable retreat from intrusion, and there they lay their eggs and rear their broods of young. Few people have the temerity to invade the thicket to disturb eggs or young birds, for it is not only a home for the cranes, but a paradise for rattlers and moccasins, which are the only enemies which make much headway against the cranes. It is said, however, that one or two summers ago a daring hunter, with difficulty, forced an entrance into the thicket and carried off three barrels of eggs, for which he found a ready market in Savannah at the price of hens' eggs, for which he sold them, but as the eggs are highly prized by epicures, he might have more than quadrupled his money if he had shipped them north. The experience was so perilous and difficult, however, that no one has ventured into the thicket to disturb the nests since.

Before leaving the nest the parent birds bring their small fish often from a great distance, and feed the young and a hunter who shot a crane on the island said that she had nearly two hundred small minnows in her pouch. As the young grow older, larger fish are caught by the parent birds, which are carried in their bills, and the fish eagle watches the flight of the stork and crane, and often pursues, forces the frightened bird to drop the prey, and, with unerring descent, the fish eagle catches the fish before it reaches the water or the ground.

The cranes go further south on the approach of cold weather, but if the winter is an open and mild one they do not migrate, and their tall forms and snow white plumage are often seen in winter through the herbage of the marshes like a picture.

The crane is pursued vigorously by the hunter, who finds a ready market for the plumage, as the snow white feathers are popular with the women of fashion and plumage dealers in New York have hunters regularly employed at a salary in the south Florida and along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the peninsula, and all through the almost impenetrable lagoons and bayous of the Everglades, who keep up the warfare on the birds of plumage and song all through the winter, and this fact has led to the agitation of the question whether a rigid law should not be passed to punish by fines and penalties all who are convicted of shooting any birds except those which are edible.—Savannah News.

A Snow White Bachelor Sparrow. At Twelfth and Oxford streets, four groups of interested sightseers stood upon the four separate corners intently watching the antics of a snow white English sparrow, which seemed to be a sort of king among its sober coated fellows, commanding and receiving from them an amount of homage and respectful attention that would have done the heart of his highness the shah of Persia good. A resident of the neighborhood said that he had noticed the albinos for two or three years.

"He has a nest in yonder church steeple," he explained, "and I have spent considerable time in watching him and studying his peculiarities. He is a male bird and a bachelor. That may sound strange, but there are lots of bachelor and spinster birds among the English sparrows. Season after season they refuse to mate, set up establishments of their own, and live in them, despised and quarreled with constantly by the married birds. This white sparrow seems to have some authority over the others. They bring him food and even build his nest for him. Life with him is an existence of idleness and luxury. When any bird refuses or neglects to pay him tribute he attacks the delinquent, gives him a sound drubbing and eventually brings him to terms."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Known by Penmanship. Handwriting has its characteristics, and is a study in itself to those who want to become familiar with its peculiarities. It can be very easily told whether a person whose writing you want to identify is a man or a woman, a minor or adult. It is very seldom a handwriting assumes its permanency before the writer is 25 years old. The age of the writing can approximately be determined by various methods. If it has a Spencerian appearance you may know it was written after 1882, as at that date the Spencerian system was introduced. If it is the black and line ink that is generally used every where now, you may know it was written after 1873. The older inks had iron or some diluted dyestuff for a basis, and preceded the aniline. An analysis of the writing will most generally determine the date of the writing.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

An Eminent Doctor's Prescription. Dr. C. P. Henry, Chicago, Ill., who has practiced medicine many years, says: Last spring he used and prescribed Clarke's Extract of Flax (Papilion) Skin Cure in 40 or 50 cases, and never knew a case where it failed to cure. "I know of no remedy I can rely on so implicitly." Positive cure for all diseases of the skin. Applied externally. Clarke's Flax Soap is best for babies. Skin Cure \$1.00. Soap 25 cents. At Johnson & Johnson's drug store.

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5:10 p. m. Daily, arrives Bristol 10:45 p. m. connecting with E. T. V. & G. R. R. for all points south and west; has Pullman Palace Sleeper, Roanoke to New Orleans, via Calera and Roanoke to Selma without change.

4:25 a. m. Daily, arrive Radford 6:00 a. m. connecting with New River Branch; arriving Potomac at 9:45 a. m., arrives Bristol 10:00 a. m., connects with E. T. V. & G. R. R. for all points south and west; has Pullman Palace Sleeper from Roanoke to New Orleans without change.

EASTERN DIVISION.

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2:00 p. m. Daily, for Lynchburg, Petersburg, Richmond, Norfolk and intermediate points; connects at Lynchburg with V. M. R. R. for Washington and the east, leaving Lynchburg 4:00 p. m. daily.

7:05 p. m. Daily, for Lynchburg and intermediate stations.

11:50 p. m. Daily, arrives Lynchburg 4:32 a. m. connecting with V. M. R. R. for all points north, arriving Washington 8:04 a. m.; arrives Petersburg 10:35 a. m.; arrives Richmond, via R. & P. R. R., 11:40 a. m.; arrives Norfolk 1:00 p. m.; connecting with steamers for Baltimore, New York and Boston.

Cripple Creek Extension—Leaves Pulaski 7:00 a. m. Daily except Sunday, and 3:00 p. m. Daily, arrive Ivanhoe 8:35 a. m. and 4:35 p. m. Returning leave Ivanhoe 9:30 a. m. Daily except Sunday, and 5:25 p. m. Daily, arrive Pulaski 11:05 a. m. and 7:00 p. m.

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Schedule in Effect October 24, 189.

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5:00 P. M. Daily—New Orleans Express. From Highgate and the north through Pullman sleeping cars from New York and Philadelphia to Mobile.

12:55 Night Daily—Memphis Express from New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, making connecting through to the South.

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7:00 A. M. Daily—Baltimore Express, from all points South, arrive in Washington, 6:50 p. m.; Baltimore 7:15 p. m.; Harrisburg 7:10 p. m.; Philadelphia, 10:55 p. m.

1:55 P. M. Daily—New York and Philadelphia Express, from Mobile, Memphis, Chattanooga and all points South. Arrive Philadelphia 5:45 a. m., New York 7:10 a. m. Sleeping cars through to New York via Harrisburg.

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